



Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Industry Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet

Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Promoting a Healthy Environment

Vehicle repair shops generate regulated waste, either from services provided, such as fluid replacement, or from operations performed, such as parts washing. Common waste types include:

- Degreasers
- Engine fluids (oil, antifreeze)
- Floor dust
- Floor wash water
- Lead acid batteries
- Metal parts/scrap
- Oily waste sump sludge
- Spent solvents
- Paints and thinners
- Paper products (masking paper, cardboard, office paper)
- Rags and absorbents
- Refrigerants
- Tires

Easy ways to reduce waste include:

Training Employees to Use Good-Housekeeping Practices

- Implement spill prevention measures to reduce products entering the environment
- Perform preventative maintenance on equipment and vehicles
- Check incoming vehicles for leaking fluids. Use drip pans to prevent spills
- Prevent non-hazardous material contamination by segregating waste streams
- Monitor stored inventory to reduce accumulation of outdated products
- Implement a “first-in, first-out” policy.

Substituting Materials

- Find ways to replace solvents with water-based cleaners
- Substitute detergent-based solutions for caustic solutions when cleaning
- Substitute non-asbestos brake lining for the asbestos type
- Purchase materials in non-aerosol form
- Use biodegradable floor cleaners
- Use non-chlorinated brake cleaners

Modifying Processes

- Pre-rinse parts with spent cleaning solution
- Remove parts slowly after immersion in solvent solution to prevent spills
- Use a still rinse solvent sink rather than a free running rinse

- Cover or plug solvent sinks when not in use to prevent evaporation
- Replace solvent parts washers with a hot water washer or jet spray
- Place cleaning equipment in convenient locations near service bays to reduce drips and spills
- Change spray painting process to high-volume, low-pressure process

Recycling

- Segregate recyclable waste streams to prevent cross-contamination
- Collect and recycle oils and antifreeze
- Lease or purchase solvent sinks, and recycle solvent on- or off-site
- Send tires, batteries and metal parts to a recycler
- Contract with a linen service for to collect and wash rags
- Purchase a recycling system to recover refrigerant. Reuse containers within the facility or through a drum salvage company.
- An oil/water separator should be used before water is diverted to sewer.

For More Information, Contact:

Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste - (801) 538-6170

Division of Water Quality - (801) 538-6146

Environmental Hotline - 1 (800) 458-0145

Pollution Prevention Coordinator - (801) 536-4477

Small Business Assistance Program - (801) 536-4479